

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)
U.S. APPLICATION NO. 09/881,090
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q64761

REMARKS

Claim 1 is amended merely to incorporate the features of claim 3. Claim 3 is correspondingly canceled. Therefore, claims 1, 2, and 4-7 are all the claims pending in the application.

To summarize, claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kashiwara et al. in view of Binder et al.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants' representative would like to thank the Examiner for courtesies extended in the telephone conferences conducted on October 21, 2003 and October 23, 2003. The following is a Statement of the Substance of the Interviews.

In the telephone interviews, Applicants' representative pointed out that the Advisory Action erroneously indicated that the Amendment filed September 8, 2003 was not entered because the amendments to the claims are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal. However, the Request for Reconsideration filed on September 8, 2003 did not include claim amendments. The Examiner agreed that the Advisory Action is incorrect.

Additionally, in the interview, Applicants' representative summarized Applicants' traversal position as submitted in the Request for Reconsideration filed on September 8, 2003. However, the Examiner maintained that the rejections should stand.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the following additional remarks, withdraw the rejection of claims 1-7, and allow these claims.

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Kashihara et al. discloses the same automotive alternator as the related art described in this application. Namely, in Kashihara et al., the brushes and the regulator are disposed so as to overlap in an axial direction, and the brushes and the connector are disposed so as to overlap in a circumferential direction. However, Kashihara et al. does not disclose that the connector is disposed at an outer circumferential-side of the regulator and the brushes, as recited in claim 1 (as amended).

On the other hand, Binder et al. discloses that the brush holder 16a, the regulator 16b and the connector 27 may be disposed so as to overlap in an axial direction. However, Binder et al. does not disclose that the connector is disposed at an outer circumferential-side of the regulator and the brush, as recited in claim 1.

Consequently, the combination of Kashihara et al. and Binder et al. clearly does not disclose or suggest all of the recitations of claim 1.

Applicants note that this response is timely filed since the due date of November 16, 2003 for responding to the present Office Action fell on a weekend.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

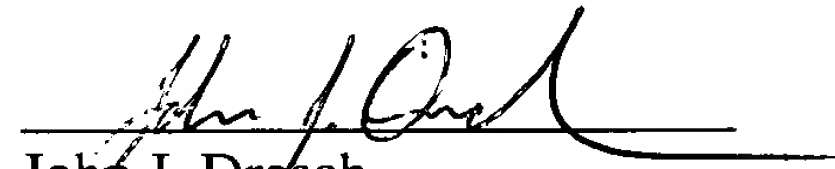
Respectfully submitted,

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